

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A discharge lamp ballast, comprising:
  - a power converter that includes at least one switching element and is connected between a power source and a high intensity discharge lamp; and
  - a control circuit that controls an on/off state of the switching element so as to provide prescribed lamp power for the lamp based on lamp power control after the start of the lamp;

wherein, after the start of the lamp, the control circuit, based on high power control, controls the on/off state of the switching element so that at least one of an effective value and a peak value of the lamp power provided for the lamp is increased more than that adjusted by constant lamp power control ~~based on high power control after the start of the lamp~~, said constant lamp power control being control for adjusting the effective value of the lamp power provided for the lamp to a prescribed power value.